Medicaid Expansion and the Criminal Justice System

Health services increased by 45% in 10 years

NC DPS spent $6,923 per person on healthcare in FY 2014-15

more than 31 other states and 21% more than national median

70% of people in jails have SUD and 65% have mental illness

Upon release, estimated 90% are uninsured

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Medicaid

CREATED IN 1965, Medicaid is our country’s public health insurance program for people with low-income including children, seniors, pregnant women, parents and people with disabilities

Each category has its own eligibility requirements and they are very restrictive. Adults without children are not eligible for Medicaid, no matter how low their income

Only 2% of justice-involved individuals are currently eligible for Medicaid in North Carolina

Medicaid Expansion

MEDICAID EXPANSION is a part of the Affordable Care Act and expanding Medicaid would increase eligibility to all low-income adults from 0-138% of the Federal Poverty Level

States can decide if they want to expand Medicaid

Joint State and Federal Program

Federal Government pays 66%
NC pays the remaining 34%

66% Federal Government pays 90%
NC pays 10%

Gap in Coverage for Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid under the ACA

No state taxes would have to be raised

No coverage

Medicaid

Medicaid Eligibility Limits as of January 2010

100% FPL
$12,870 for an individual

400% FPL
$49,920 for an individual

250% FPL
$35,250 for a family of three

50% FPL
$8,132 for an individual

Limited to Specific Low Income Groups
**Medicaid Expansion and the Criminal Justice System**

Industries with the largest numbers of uninsured workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Citizens in North Carolina with Family Income At or Below 138% of Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants and other food services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building services (janitor, extermination, cleaning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment services (temp agencies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department and discount stores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing care facility services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels, motels, and inns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto repair and maintenance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Industries most accepting to people with a criminal background**

**As many as 634,000 people could enroll in Medicaid by 2022 if NC expanded Medicaid (more than halving our state’s uninsured population)**

With more people in need of care, more jobs will be needed to provide that care.

**Key Savings from Medicaid Expansion for the Criminal Justice System:**

- **Fewer initial contacts** due to greater household economic stability and increased access to substance use treatment and mental health treatment
- **Lower recidivism rates** due to ongoing treatment, healthcare access and successful re-entry
- **Reduced correction spending** due to the ability to seek reimbursement for care at in-patient medical facilities, lower staff hours and transportation costs

**More people insured**

**Demand in healthcare services**

**Increase in healthcare jobs, services and more stability for rural healthcare providers**

**Boost in state and local tax revenue from more jobs and construction of facilities**

**More people accessing care and treatment**

**Reductions in recidivism**

**Safer communities and stable families**

**Savings in county and state budgets from reduced incarceration**

Sources:
3. NC General Assembly Program Evaluation Division: Improvements to inmate healthcare reimbursement and internal processes could save $3.6 million annually. 2016. Retrieved from: [link](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5232804/)

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